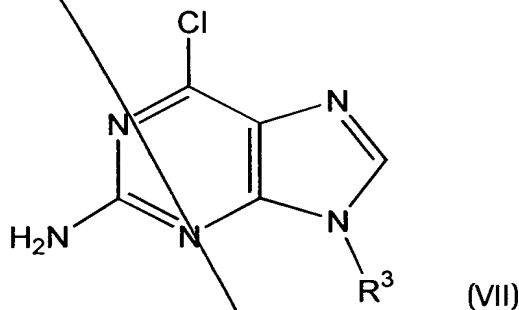


In the Claims:

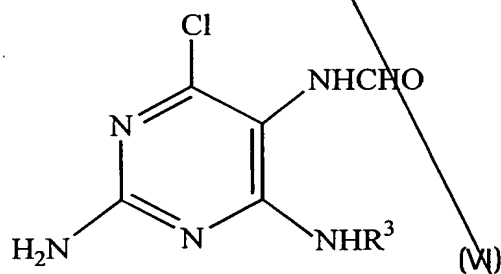
Please cancel claims 1 - 4, 6- 8 and 10 - 17 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

Claim 9 (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



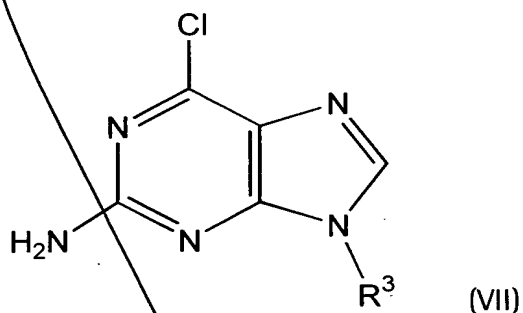
wherein R^3 is [as defined in claim 5, 6, 7, or 8] hydrogen or any group which is not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising ring closure of a compound of formula (VI)



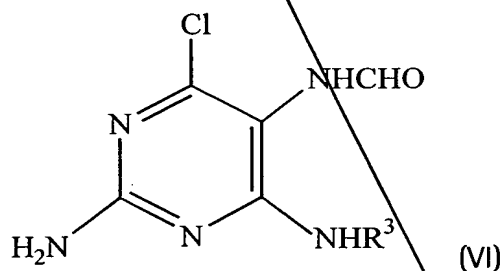
[as defined in claim 5] wherein R^3 is hydrogen or any group which is not attached by a glycosidic bond, in the presence of an acid.

Please add the following new claims:

18. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)

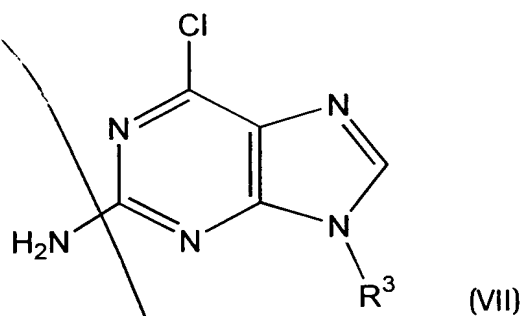


wherein R³ is C₃₋₇ carbocyclic, a C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl or a C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group, provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising ring closure of a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R³ is hydrogen or any group which is not attached by a glycosidic bond, in the presence of an acid.

19. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)

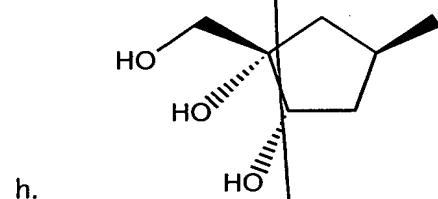
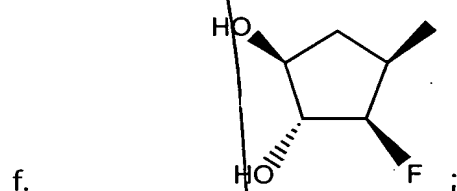
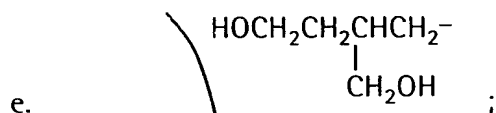


wherein R³ is selected from:

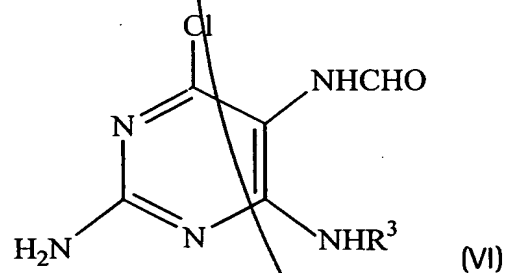
- a. ;
- b. H; ;
- c. ;
- d. (AcOCH₂)₂CHCH₂CH₂⁻ ;

B2
Cont

A3
Cont

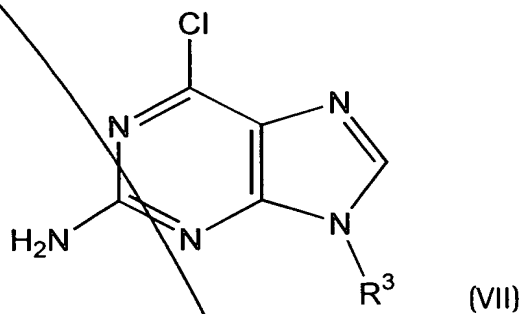


comprising ring closure of a compound of formula (VI)

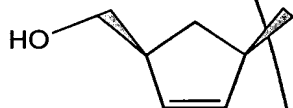


wherein R^3 is hydrogen or any group which is not attached by a glycosidic bond, in the presence of an acid.

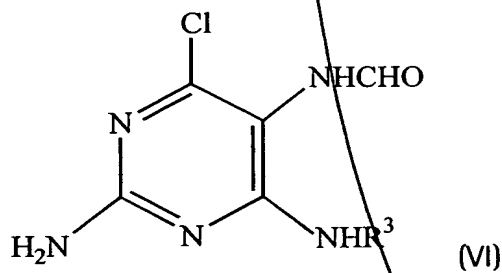
20. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



wherein R^3 is



comprising ring closure of a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R^3 is hydrogen or any group which is not attached by a glycosidic bond, in the presence of an acid.

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B2
cont

A3
cont